

Brixworth Rural District Council



Report of the
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31st DECEMBER, 1944

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BRIXWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH *for the year ending 31st December, 1944*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health and combining that of the Sanitary Inspector. I am happy to express my gratitude to members of the Council and of the Staff for their help and interest throughout the year.

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health	C. T. DARWENT, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H., F.R.San.I.
Sanitary Inspector	F. A. RUSSELL, F.F.S., M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.
Assistant Sanitary Inspector	R. S. LINLEY (on active service until December 9th, 1944)
Assistant Surveyor	B. J. LITTLE (on active service)
Water Inspector	D. H. SEATON

The year commenced with Dr. S. Leff in office as Medical Officer of Health. Dr. Leff resigned early in the year, and was followed by Dr. C. T. Darwent who commenced duties on the 1st May in a temporary capacity in place of Dr. D. J. Jones in H.M. Forces.

The Medical Officer of Health holds a full time public health appointment, combining with his duties to this Council, those of Medical Officer of Health to the Councils of Brackley Borough and Brackley Rural District, Daventry Borough and Daventry Rural District, and Assistant Medical Officer and Assistant School Medical Officer to the Northamptonshire County Council. This combined appointment allows the Medical Officer to be concerned with that part of the public health administration of the District

for which the County Council is responsible, and includes:—

Examination of infants and toddlers at three Infant Welfare Centres: Brixworth, Moulton and Welford.

Medical inspection of children attending the public elementary schools.

Supervision of dairies and cowsheds concerned in the production and distribution of "accredited" and Tuberculin tested milk.

Supervision of rivers and streams, under the Rivers Pollution Prevention Acts.

The Sanitary Inspector is also the Surveyor to the Council. He and his assistants prepare plans and estimates and also supervise the carrying out of all works on behalf of the local authority, and supervise all building in the District.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the District.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	82,944 acres
Rateable Value 31/12/44	...	...	...	...	...	£94,434
Sum represented by 1d. rate	...	...	...	...	...	£366/0/11d.
Resident population and number of inhabited houses end of 1944 are not available for publication.						

The District is almost entirely rural in character, except in proximity to the County Borough of Northampton. Agriculture and dairy farming are the main industries, though ironstone quarrying gives employment to a number of men.

Vital Statistics.

			Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population			
			Total	Male	Female	Brixworth R.D. and England and Wales
Deaths	...	...	242	114	128	15.06
Deaths from						
Puerperal Causes	Nil		Nil	Nil	Nil	
Live Births	...	...	325	177	148	20.23
Legitimate	...	...	307	168	139	
Illegitimate	...	...	18	9	9	
Stillbirths	...	...	11	9	2	32.67
Legitimate	...	...	11	9	2	
Illegitimate	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	
						[Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births]
						0.68
						0.50
						(Rate per 1,000 of Civilian Population)

Death rate of Infants (under one years of age) :—

	Brixworth R.D.	England and Wales
All infants per 1,000 live births ...	39.91	46
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	39.00	
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	55.55	
	Total	Male Female
Deaths from cancer (all ages) ...	39	20 19
Deaths from measles (all ages) ...	NIL	— —
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	NIL	— —
Deaths from diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	1	NIL 1

Adjusted Death Rate.

The “ Adjusted Death Rate ” cannot be calculated for the current year as the “ Area Comparability Factor ” is not available. The above death rate therefore is the nett figure for the district.

The registered causes of death were as follows:—

	M.	F.	Total
Influenza	1	1	2
Tuberculosis of Respiratory system ...	3	5	8
Tuberculosis—other forms	1	2	3
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0	1	1
Diarrhœa	0	1	1
Puerperal Causes	0	3	3
Cancer	20	19	39
Diabetes	0	1	1
Appendicitis	0	1	1
Other digestive disorders	1	2	3
Cerebral hæmorrhage	11	11	22
Heart disease	40	48	88
Other circulatory diseases	3	2	5
Bronchitis	5	12	17
Pnuemonia (all forms)	6	4	10
Other respiratory diseases	2	0	2
Ac. and chronic nephritis	1	7	8
Congenital debility, premature birth, etc.	2	1	3
All other causes	18	7	25

Heart disease and cancer were the commonest causes of death.

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

(a) **Laboratory Facilities.** Swabs from suspected cases of diphtheria, water for bacteriological examination and any other pathological or bacteriological investigations are carried out in the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, at Northampton General Hospital.

(b) **Diphtheria Antitoxin.** A supply of Antitoxin is maintained at the Council Offices in accordance with the provisions of the "Diphtheria Antitoxin (outside London) Order, 1910," and is available free of charge to all Medical Practitioners in the District.

(c) **Ambulance Facilities.**

(1) Ordinary cases by St. John Ambulance Brigade.

(2) Infectious cases by Kettering Joint Hospital Board.

(d) **Nursing in the home.**

(e) **Treatment centres and clinics.**

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

(i) Water Supplies.

There has been no change in water supplies during the year.

The Council have, however, been seriously concerning themselves with the provision of piped supplies of water to the whole of their district as soon as circumstances permit. Much preparatory work has been done to achieve this and negotiations with neighbouring authorities for a joint scheme were still in progress at the close of the year.

There was a general shortage of water throughout the district during the summer months due to the drought, but it was not necessary to cart water to any of the villages.

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage.

No major schemes and/or improvements were carried out during the year; the arrangements of drainage and sewerage therefore remain substantially the same.

The total length of sewers in the district is about 39½ miles, the regular flushing of which has been much interfered with owing to the shortage of labour.

(iii) Public Cleansing.

Scavenging of household refuse is carried out by direct labour throughout the whole of the district. Collections are made monthly with the exception of part of the parish of Boughton, adjacent to the Borough of Northampton, where fortnightly collections are in operation.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA. HOUSING.

Number of visits (during 1944) :—

Inspections for individual unfit houses	NIL
Visits to Clearance Areas... ..	NIL
Visits for repairs	796
Building Inspections by Private Enterprise ...	133
Visits to Council Houses in course of erection...	374

BUILDING AND PROVISION OF NEW HOUSES.

Twenty-six plans were submitted and reported upon during the year as follows :—

- 1 New House.
- 8 Additions to Domestic Premises.
- 8 Reconstruction of Cottages.
- 1 Garage (private).
- 2 Alterations to Farm Buildings.
- 3 New Farm Buildings.
- 1 Bus Shelter.
- 1 Addition to Hospital.
- 1 Extension to Offices.

The seven pairs of agricultural cottages in course of erection at the beginning of the year were completed and occupied by the end of April.

STATISTICS FOR 1944.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—
 1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (Under Public Health and Housing Acts) 279
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... 796
 2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 NIL
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... NIL
 3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation NIL
 4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation and capable of repair ... NIL

2. Remedy of defects during the year without the service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or their Officers NIL

3. Action under statutory powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of Housing Act, 1936 :—

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs NIL

2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after the service of formal notices :—

(a) By Owners NIL

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners NIL

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 279

2. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By Owners 2

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners NIL

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act, 1936 :—

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... NIL

2. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders NIL

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of Housing Act, 1936 :—

1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made NIL

2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit NIL

4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding :—

(a) (i) Number of dwelling houses overcrowded at the end of the year	} Information not available	
(ii) Number of families therein		
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein..		
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year		8
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year		2
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...		17

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**MILK AND DAIRIES.**

Periodic inspections have been made for cleanliness and alterations to existing Cowsheds.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND MEAT INSPECTION.

All slaughtering of animals for sale for human consumption in this district, is now carried out in the Central Abattoirs at Northampton and Market Harborough.

BAKEHOUSES.

During the year no adverse reports have been received.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

No action has been taken and no complaints have been received.

CAMPING SITES.

There are no recognised camping sites in the district. One temporary voluntary labour camp was sited in the parish of Hollowell by the County W.A.E.C. This was in operation from June to October and no adverse reports were received.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are four private swimming pools in the District and no reports have been received as to the condition of the water.

ERADICATION OF BED-BUGS.

Sanitary Inspection of houses has revealed two cases of infestation and appropriate action was taken.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scabies.

Notifications of cases are received by the Medical Officer of Health and where facilities for treatment are available at home this is usually instituted by the general medical practitioner and/or with the guidance and supervision of the health visitors.

Where such facilities do not exist, treatment is carried out in the case of local residents in the County Borough of Northampton at their cleansing station by arrangements with the Public Health Department of the Borough. All evacuees are treated by arrangement with the County Council at Daventry Public Assistance Institution. Twenty-five notifications have been received during the year.

Infected bedding and clothing is removed and disinfected by the Sanitary Inspector.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Year ending 31st December, 1944.

There were two cases of diphtheria (both non-civilians) with no deaths.

	Under 5 years	5—15	Total
Number of children who completed the full course of immunisation during 1944	182	74	256
Number of children considered immunised at 31/12/44	622	2088	2710
Percentage of Population considered immunised at 31st December, 1944	49	80	

Still more remains to be done, as there are quite a few children who are not yet immunised, and there are the new children to be immunised every year. The ideal time for immunisation is at the age of one year, and the Medical Officer of Health does the majority of cases at the Schools and Infant Welfare Centres.

Application for immunisation of children may be made to the Health Visitors, Miss Myerscough and Miss Hunting, the Medical Officer of Health or the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. F. A. Russell, at the Brixworth Rural District Council Offices.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFICATION IN AGE GROUPS.

Disease	Under 1 year	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65 and over	Total	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	—	2	1	1	2	25	1	—	1	—	—	—	33	24	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	1	—	1	3	1	—	1	1	1	—	9	1	—
Whooping Cough	3	2	7	3	6	15	—	1	—	—	—	—	37	2	—
Puerperal															
Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Pneumonia ...	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	1	—	2	7	—	10
Ophthalmia															
Neonatorum ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	2	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	7	—
Jaundice ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Cerebral Spinal Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age and Sex Distribution of Cases and Deaths.

		NEW CASES				DEATHS			
		Pulmonary		Other		Pulmonary		Other	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5—	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—	...	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	1
25—	...	2	1	—	1	2	1	—	1
35—	...	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
45—	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
55—	...	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
65 and over		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL		6	6	—	3	3	5	1	2

C. T. DARWENT, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.,
D.P.H., F.R.San.I.

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1945.

